

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 TRSE-00
SSM-05 SIG-02 MMO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 AID-05 /131 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. CULLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----210912Z 037560 /23

R 210056Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 089686

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 20

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 20,
1977:

SPOKESMAN: FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO MADRID THE
SECRETARY WILL BE IN TEHRAN FROM THE EVENING OF MAY 12 TO
THE MORNING OF MAY 15. DURING THAT PERIOD HE WILL HAVE
AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAH OF IRAN.
HE WILL ALSO LEAD THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE CENTO
MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 14 AND 15 AND THE SECRETARY WILL
RETURN DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON ON MAY 15.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE REPORT BY CBS REPORTER
JOHN SHEAHAN THAT PART OF THE PEACE PLAN PUT FORTH TO
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PRESIDENT SADAT WHEN HE MET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WAS
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMERICAN-MANNED EARLY
WARNING SYSTEMS AROUND THE ISRAELI BORDERS?

A. I NOTED THE REPORT FROM CAIRO ON CBS TELEVISION THAT
WE WERE DEVISING A PEACE FORMULA WHICH WOULD INCLUDE
MONITORING STATIONS IN THE SINAI AND ALONG THE JORDAN

RIVER IN THE DEMILITARIZED WEST BANK PALESTINIAN STATE.

I WOULD HAVE TO CALL THE REPORT, INsofar AS IT PURPORTS
TO BE REALITY, FICTION. IT IS TOTALLY SPECULATIVE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS, HOWEVER, PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF IDEAS
WHICH HE HAS PUBLICLY OFFERED, BOTH ON MARCH 9TH AND
MARCH 16TH, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARTIES IN THE AREA.
AND AMONG THOSE IDEAS WHICH HE HAS PUT FORWARD IN PUBLIC
STATEMENTS WERE REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A DMZ
OR OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL MONITORING STATIONS OF ONE KIND

OR ANOTHER. BUT WE ARE NOT PUTTING FORWARD PLANS OR DRAWING UP MAPS, AND THE TALKS SO FAR THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS HAVE BEEN PURELY EXPLORATORY, AND ARE NOT, AND WERE NOT, INTENDED AS SESSIONS IN OFFERING OUR PROGRAM AND PACKAGES, BUT MERELY OFFERING IDEAS AND EXCHANGING IDEAS.

Q. THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE FICTION, IT SOUNDS LIKE SEMI-FICTION. ARE YOU SAYING WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAYS PUBLICLY HE DOESN'T SAY PRIVATELY?

A. WHAT I AM SAYING IS, THE REPORT SAID THAT WE WERE DEVISING A PEACE FORMULA FOR THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH INCLUDED DMZ'S AND MONITORING STATIONS, AND THAT IS FICTION.

Q. WELL, OF COURSE, YOUR STANDING LINE IS THAT ANYTHING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT IS WORKED OUT HAS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT. BUT, DID YOU EXPLORE WITH THEM THIS POSSIBILITY?

A. I THINK WE EXPLORED A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WITH THEM. AND I THINK IF THE PRESIDENT PUBLICLY SUGGESTED SOME THINGS THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, THEN CLEARLY THE PUBLIC SUGGESTION IN ITSELF WOULD BE A SUGGESTION THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

Q. SINCE THE PRESIDENT MADE THESE SUGGESTIONS LAST MONTH, HAS THERE BEEN ANY DETAILED EXPLORATION OF CARRYING OUT THE DMZ IN THAT SENSE?

A. NO. I KNOW OF NOTHING ALONG THAT LINE. IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT STILL HAS A NUMBER OF MORE CONVERSATIONS COMING UP WITH MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS, AND BEFORE WE WOULD EVEN BEGIN TO ENGAGE IN A PROCESS, WHICH I AM NOT EVEN GOING TO SPECULATE THAT IS BEGINNING, HE WOULD WANT TO COMPLETE THESE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. SO IT HASN'T MOVED ONE INCH FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS?

A. THAT IS RIGHT. WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KEY LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE NOT FORMULATING A PROGRAM.

Q. ARE YOU RULING OUT THE KIND OF TECHNICAL STUDY THAT MIGHT BE DONE IN THE NSC OR THE PENTAGON?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO RULE OUT ANYTHING. I AM NOT
RULING ANYTHING IN YET, EITHER, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT YET
FAR ENOUGH ALONG, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, TO BE COMING UP
WITH PACKAGES WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE THE KIND OF ITEMS THAT
ARE SPECIFIED IN THIS STORY. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE
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INCONSISTENT WITH PAST POLICY FOR US TO HAVE STUDIES ON A
NUMBER OF AREAS. BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW OF IT.

Q. WITH DUE RESPECT, YOU ARE NARROWING THE DEGREE OF
FICTION IN THIS STORY.

A. NO, I AM REJECTING THE IDEA THAT WE HAVE SUCH A
PACKAGE TOTALLY. WE DON'T.

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